



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
LANSING

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STATE SUPERINTENDENT

October 1, 2014

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: State Board of Education

FROM: Melody Arabo, 2014-2015 Michigan Teacher of the Year

SUBJECT: Teacher of the Year Report

- Presented a math fact fluency system to teachers at three different schools in the Walled Lake District. This method was designed through action research and has proven to be effective in hundreds of classrooms.
- Developing a presentation on reading comprehension and instructional strategies with a focus on metacognition. Components include Reader's Workshop, book clubs, guided reading and strategy groups. The presentation contains anchor charts, management forms, and assessment guides that can be used with any text and modified for all grade levels.
- Spent time at the Michigan Virtual University (MVU) to learn about its programs and partner in its efforts.
- Met one-on-one with Superintendent Flanagan.
- Attended a Directors and Representatives of Teacher Education Programs (DARTEP) meeting with Leah Breen and the Office of Professional Preparation Services at Saginaw Valley State University.
- Latest blog – "The Student Teacher Wish List" – [www.melodyarabo.com/blog](http://www.melodyarabo.com/blog).
- Founding member of a humanitarian organization called TEACH – Teachers Educating and Creating Hope, which is comprised of Chaldean educators dedicated to helping the displaced children of Iraq. Our first effort is a coat drive through local churches, schools, and businesses to provide winter gear to the thousands of people who are facing a harsh winter for the first time in Northern Iraq's mountainous regions. Our goal is to collect, purchase, and ship a total of 40,000 coats by the end of the month.
- *Diary of a Real Bully* has been sent to print. It is a children's picture book uniquely told from the bully's perspective, which helps to identify the bully in all of us, and then to make a change.

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608 WEST ALLEGAN STREET • P.O. BOX 30008 • LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909  
[www.michigan.gov/mde](http://www.michigan.gov/mde) • (517) 373-3324